

Potato stocks



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POTATO STOCKS UP 23 PERCENT

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record 130.7 million cwt. on February 1, 1975, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 24.1 million cwt. (23 percent) more than the 106.6 million cwt. on hand January 1, 1974 and 5 percent above the previous record February 1 stocks of 1971.

For the eight eastern States, February 1, 1975 potato stocks of 28.0 million cwt. were 41 percent above the 20.0 million cwt. on hand a year earlier.

Stocks in the eight central States on February 1, 1975 at 25.9 million cwt. were 23 percent above the 21.0 million cwt. a year earlier. In the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, quality is variable and shrinkage and loss continue above average in some storages.

Stocks in the eight western States totaled 76.8 million cwt., 17 percent above the 65.7 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. In most areas, potatoes went into storage in good condition and quality of remaining stocks in storage is average or better.

Disappearance from the 1974 fall crop to February 1, 1975 totaled 157.0 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), 7 percent more than the 147.3 million cwt. moved during the comparable period a year earlier.

The accumulated quantity of potatoes processed in seven major States to February 1, 1975 from the 1974 crop totaled 58.6 million cwt., slightly below the 58.8 million cwt. processed for the comparable period a year earlier.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production, with losses due to shrink accounting for most of the remaining 10 percent. Although more than usual storage losses are expected this season due to lower quality of potatoes entering storage in some areas, no attempt is made at this date to estimate potential losses to current storage stocks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

Pot 1-2 (2-75)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1964-74 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS			
		DECEMBER 1		FOLLOWING YEAR	
		JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 1	APRIL 1
1,000 CWT					
1964	174,491	114,550	94,205	73,120	54,535
1965	216,749	147,730	124,170	93,670	74,905
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940
1969	239,460	162,300	138,140	111,510	87,620
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780
1971 1/	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305 2/ 58,185
1973 3/	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150 55,865
1974	287,710	137,385	161,725	130,740	

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - L I, WIS, AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

3/ REVISED AUGUST 1974 POT 6 (74).

TABLE 2. POTATOES: USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1973 AND 1974 CROPS

STATE AND AREA	FROM 1973 CROP				FROM 1974 CROP	
	TO FEBRUARY 1: 1974	TO MARCH 1: 1974	TO APRIL 1: 1974	ENTIRE SEASON	TO FEBRUARY 1 1975	
				1,000 CWT		
1,000 CWT						
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	28,570	34,030	40,063	55,506	28,068	
MAINE	5,317	5,938	6,439	7,288	5,126	
WASHINGTON AND OTHER OREGON AREAS	13,546	21,644	24,609	30,140	19,181	
OTHER STATES 2/	6,396	7,480	8,445	9,937	6,223	
SEVEN STATE TOTAL	53,829	69,092	79,556	102,371	58,598	

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OR SEASON IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITY USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE AND MICHIGAN.

2/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1974-75 1/

STATE	CROP OF 1973		CROP OF 1974	
	PRODUCTION	STOCKS	PRODUCTION	STOCKS
		FEB 1, 1974		FEB 1, 1975
1,000 CWT				
CALIF	6,253	2,000	6,324	2,300
COLO	8,235	3,350	8,840	3,950
CONN	572	2/	593	120
IDAHO	78,965	41,000	80,045	45,000
IND	1,238	90	1,272	80
MAINE	28,770	15,500	36,400	21,700
MASS	592	2/	800	170
MICH	7,520	2,500	8,330	2,500
MINN	13,120	6,000	15,300	8,100
MONT	1,462	1,300	1,750	1,230
NEBR	1,012	440	1,152	475
NEV			3,188	3/
N H	102	2/	144	2/
N Y - LONG ISLAND	5,375	900	6,750	1,260
- UPSTATE	6,670	1,700	7,236	2,400
N DAK	19,140	3,250	22,950	10,250
OHIO	1,800	350	1,995	350
OREG	15,929	4,670	17,482	6,260
PA	6,300	1,600	7,360	2,250
R I	796	2/	1,034	2/
S DAK	770	160	371	170
UTAH	1,100	400	1,481	550
VT	150	2/	220	2/
WASH	35,260	12,600	41,160	16,800
WIS	11,515	3,200	14,000	3,950
WYO	1,220	330	1,528	730
OTHER STATES	--	260	--	145
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES:	253,866	106,600	287,710	130,740

1/ STOCKS CONSIST OF "PRODUCTION LESS DISAPPEARANCE TO DATE".

2/ INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES.

3/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.



POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
Minnesota and North Dakota (Red River Valley)

Quality information contained in this report is based on a potato stocks survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. There were 175 samples selected on a random basis that were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Reports will continue to be issued during the 1974-75 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potato samples removed from storage.

Samples for all varieties removed from storage before February 1, 1975 averaged fewer U. S. No. 1 (including Bs) than a year earlier. Russets showed the largest decline in quality with a current average of 45 percent U. S. No. 1's. This is partially the result of some storage bins being dumped and classified as 100 percent culls. Red varieties removed from storage contain 14 percent fewer No. 1's than when they were harvested. Samples of White varieties show minimal change from the time of harvest.

Culls for both White and Russet potatoes remain above year ago levels while Reds show little change from last year. Deterioration and physiological changes in potatoes while in storage now account for a three to nine percent overall weight loss. Russets at nine percent show the largest weight loss as a result of above normal breakdown while in storage.

Averages for potatoes shipped to February 1, 1974 are also shown for last year's crop. Thus, comparisons relating to change in grade from February to final can be made for the 1973 crop. In interpreting current survey indications consideration should be given to further changes that may occur in average grade and weight loss from February 1 to the end of season.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1974-75
 AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES SHIPPED 1/

VARIETAL TYPE	NO. 1		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1		WEIGHT LOSS	
	INCLUDING B'S		AT HARVEST		AFTER STORAGE		AT HARVEST			
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	STORAGE	AT HARVEST	STORAGE	B'S	2/		
PERCENT										
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1975										
RED	91	77	5	15	4	8	1	4		
WHITE	73	72	14	8	13	20	1	3		
RUSSET	73	45	15	8	12	47	4	9		
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1974										
RED	94	83	3	9	3	8	2	3		
WHITE	82	73	10	11	8	16	2	4		
RUSSET	82	76	11	15	7	9	5	1		
ALL SAMPLES 1973-74 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL										
RED	93	88	4	6	3	6	4	2		
WHITE	83	76	9	11	8	13	3	3		
RUSSET	83	83	10	8	7	9	9	2		

1/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

2/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGHT LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.